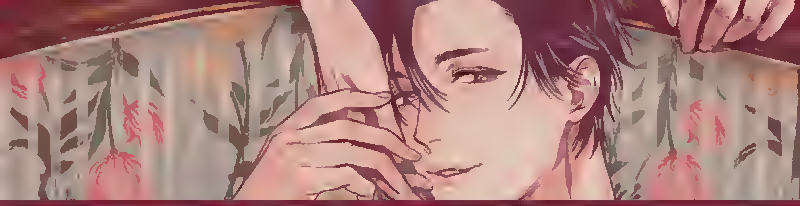

ANO MIDNIGHT

Syundei

CHAPTER 7

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I'M SO HAPPY. THIS IS THE BEST BIRTHDAY.
YEAH? I'M GLAD.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT SKY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE MAKING SUCH A GLOOMY FACE...
IT'S NOTHING.

I KNEW IT!
SO YOU KNEW?
OH, I KNOW! IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED OF HEIGHTS, RIGHT?
NO, I CAN'T FORGET ABOUT IT EVEN IF I TRIED.
I STILL REMEMBER IT CLEARLY.
10 YEARS... SO IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE THAT DAY?
THAT'S RIGHT, TODAY...
THE NIGHT SKY LOOKED LIKE THIS ONE.
YES, THAT DAY, TOO,

あのミッドナイト
That Midnight presented by Squeeze
春泥
MICCHAN!
HEY... SO IT'S JUN.

MY HOUSE WAS ALSO GETTING MORE AND MORE RESTRICTED, SO I RAN AWAY.
NO, NOT AT ALL...
HOW IS IT GOING? HAVING FUN AT SCHOOL?
PROBABLY?
SINCE YOU WEREN'T AT THE USUAL PLACE, I THOUGHT YOU'D PROBABLY BE HERE.
IS SCHOOL REALLY...
...WHAT ABOUT YOU, MICCHAN?
MY, WHAT A GOOD, ACCOMPLISHED CHILD.
I SEE. EVEN SO, YOU'RE STILL DOING YOUR BEST WITH THE EXAMS.
W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HM...
I'VE HARDLY BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL, BUT RECENTLY IT'S SORT OF LIKE, WHATEVER...
ME? I TOLD YOU ALREADY, I'M GETTING A PART-TIME JOB.
scratch
scratch

I MET MICCHAN AT TOWN. HE WAS SINGING AND PLAYING THE GUITAR ON SOLO, AND WHEN I HEARD IT, I WAS DRAWN TO IT.
I WAS ABOUT TO CRUMBLE APART DUE TO THE STRONG PRESSURE FROM SCHOOL AND MY FAMILY... BUT, IN CONTRAST, HE LIVED VERY FREELY.
FOR ME, HE WAS AN IDEAL EXISTENCE.
NO, IT WASN'T JUST THAT...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY THE GUITAR ANYMORE?
HE HAD A STRANGE ALLURE NO OTHER HUMAN BEING POSSESSED.
MY FINGERS ARE ALL FLABBY.
ALSO, I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I LEFT THE CAPO.
Capo?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ATTRACTED TO HIM FROM THE START.
I SEE... LET ME LISTEN TO IT AGAIN.
ALSO,
WHEN HE WAS ILLUMINATED BY THE CITY LIGHTS,
THAT ALLURE WAS MUCH MORE PROMINENT.
HEY, JUN.

I THINK ABOUT THIS A LOT.
...
ALL THE OLD MEN SHINING IN THE LIGHTS ARE SALARYMEN.
RIGHT? SINCE YOU WEAR GLASSES, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO SEE IT REALLY WELL.
EH?
IS THIS NIGHT SKY BEAUTIFUL?
AH... YEAH.
IT'S SO THAT THEY CAN BUY PITIFUL POOR GUYS LIKE ME.
BUT FOR WHAT REASON ARE THEY MAKING MONEY?
THE SHINE OF THESE OLD MEN COMES FROM THE MONEY THEY WORKED HARD TO GET.
THEY'RE NEITHER FIREFLIES NOR STARS.
EVERYBODY IN THIS WORLD IS FILTHY.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
... MICCHAN.
HEY, JUN.
IS THIS NIGHT SKY BEAUTIFUL?

WE JUST PRETEND TO SHINE.
EVERYONE IS DESPERATE TO BE LIKE THAT.
I MAY LOOK LIKE I'M OKAY...
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, JUN?
I'VE SLOWLY BECOME UNINTERESTED IN THIS LIFE.
MAYBE I SHOULD DIE.

TURN
OF COURSE.
...T-THERE YOU GO AGAIN, MICCHAN~
YOU'RE TEASING ME, AREN'T YOU?
AHAHA. DID THAT ONE BURN?
GEEZ~ YOU'RE ALWAYS JOKING AROUND!
HEHE, MY BAD, MY BAD.
BUT SUPPOSING THAT WHAT I JUST SAID WAS THE TRUTH,
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?
EH...
LET'S SEE. I NEVER SAW A MALE PROSTITUTE BEFORE.
I GUESS THE NORMAL THING TO DO WOULD BE TO TRY TO STOP YOU FROM DYING...

I WANTED TO TRY JOKING A BIT.
...JUST KIDDING!
I'D PROBABLY SAY, "IF YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL LET ME HOLD YOU" OR SOMETHING?
OKAY.
...
THAT'S OKAY.
HMM?

HM?
YEAH...
...

SO YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING AT ME WITH THOSE INTENTIONS?
...
THAT'S OKAY.
I CAN DO IT FOR FREE.
SINCE IT'S YOU, JUN,

AFTER HE SAID THAT, HE TOUCHED ME WITH KNOWING HANDS.
IT WAS AS IF HE KNEW ABOUT THE DREAMS I'D BEEN SECRETLY PILING UP AND WOULD OPENLY MAKE THEM COME TRUE.
"HE'S GOING TO DIE."
AS I THOUGHT THAT, SOME-THING WAS MUTTERED, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT WAS SAID.
BUT,
OPPOSITE TO THE COLD WIND, HIS BODY TEMPERATURE SLOWLY ROSE UP.
I ONLY REMEMBER THE SENSATION OF HIM CLINGING TO MY WHOLE BODY...

NGH...

SO THE NIGHT SKY WAS THIS BEAUTIFUL, HUH...
I CAN SEE REALLY WELL.
...MICCHAN!
...
W-WAIT...
MICCHAN!!
WAIT, MI-

THUD
WEE WOO
WEE WOO
OH!
I JUST SAW AN AMBULANCE.
...HEY, MICCHAN.
HM?
LET'S GET MARRIED.

EH?
JUST KIDDING.
SHALL WE GO?
I'M SO HAPPY, JUN-KUN...!
A-ALREADY?
BUT WE JUST GOT HERE...
IT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN LOOK AT FOREVER.
THESE LIGHTS ARE NEITHER FIREFLIES NOR STARS.

END